

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

**REMARKS**

Claims 19, 20, 24-28, 30, 32, 33 and 35 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 23, 31 and 36 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 19, 27 and 32 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 23, 31 and 36, respectively, and the intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 21-23, 29, 31, 34 and 36 are canceled.

Claims 27 and 32 are amended to obviate informalities, as the Examiner requested. A new Fig. 1 is enclosed, as the Examiner requested. The new Fig. 1 is identical to the amended Fig. 1 submitted December 16, 2005, except that the new Fig. 1 is enlarged for improved readability.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments merely incorporate the subject matter of an allowable dependent claim into the independent claims). Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the Fig. 1 that was amended December 16, 2005. A new Fig. 1 is submitted herewith that is identical to the December 16, 2005 Fig. 1, but is enlarged for better readability, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Fig. 1 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 27 and 32. Claims 27 and 32 are amended to obviate informalities, as the Examiner suggested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 27 and 32 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 22, 23, 30 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the recitation of claims 22, 23, 30 and 35 is incorrect. It appears that the Office Action is asserting that a model of a sensor which is part of a system cannot predict the performance of other models used in the system. However, this assertion is respectfully traversed.

Claims 22, 23, 30 and 35 recite that, in a system having a plurality of models, one model predicts how other models perform, thus predicting a future state of the system. See the specification at, for example, Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0031] - [0033]. In particular, as described in step S1400 and paragraph [0032], all models are run to determine the predicted results of each model. Also, in step S1500, the actual system performance is measured after a time interval. Then, in step S1600, the results of each predicted system performance model are compared to actual system performance.


In view of the above, the subject matter recited in claims 22, 23, 30 and 35 are well described in the specification in such a way that one of ordinary skill in the art is enabled without undue experimentation in order to practice the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 23, 30 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 19-21, 24, 26-29 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). This rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 23, 31 and 36 into independent claims 19, 27 and 32, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 19, 20, 24-28, 30, 32, 33 and 35 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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